MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Event: Interview of FBI Special Agent Pete Ashooh

Type of event: Interview

Dates: October 10, 2003

Special Access Issues: None

Prepared by: Hyon Kim

Team Number: 1A

Location: FBI, Washington Field Office

Participants – Non-Commission:

Participants – Commission: Dieter Snell, Hyon Kim, Raj De

The investigation into Eyad Alrababah, [redacted] and Abdel Rahman Alfauru originated with the VA driver's licenses found with Nawaf al-Hazmi and Hani Hanjour. It was discovered that Luis Martinez Flores had assisted with obtaining the licenses by attesting that the hijackers lived at a certain address.

The driver's license scheme was traced to a 7-11 store in Falls Church where many illegal aliens congregate. It was there that Martinez Flores offered to help the hijackers get the licenses.

The hijackers went to DMV twice. The first time they could not get the licenses because they had only one form of identification. They then went to an attorney's office to get a document serving as their second form of ID. Once Hazmi and Hanjour got the licenses, they were able to get licenses for five other hijackers.

A check on the address used led to the discovery of Alrababah. He helped Alfauru get a license, who in turn helped a third person get a license. Alfauru did not know the hijackers.

After 9/11, Alrababah realized he knew some of the hijackers and reported to the authorities in Connecticut. Alrababah stated that he was living in Falls Church, VA in the spring of 2001 with Chehazeh. Alrababah went to the Dar al Hijra mosque on a few occasions, and at the mosque was able to pick out Hazmi and Hanjour as Saudis. He struck up conversation and the Saudis mentioned that they were looking for an apartment. Alrababah knew of an apartment offered by [redacted] whom he had met at the DMV. He gave the Saudis [redacted] first name and phone number.

9/11 Personal Privacy

In May of 2001 [redacted] called Alrababah and told him the Saudis were looking for him to do some sightseeing. Alrababah met them in an apartment where the Saudis, two additional Saudis and two Jordanians were living. The four Saudis, Hazmi, Hanjour, Midhar and Moqed traveled to New Jersey and then to Connecticut with Alrababah. Alrababah states that the last time he saw the Saudis was in Connecticut.

A check of Fairfax County records revealed that Hazmi had reporting a mugging on 5/1/01. The address was an apartment of [redacted] was interviewed. He claimed not to know anything about the hijackers and that he was living elsewhere at the time. The apartment was being used by his nephew [redacted] In an interview, [redacted] stated that no one other than the three lived in the apartment.

[redacted] were on a list in a visa fraud case. They were arrested. [redacted] stated he knew the hijackers, and [redacted] admitted that his uncle had brought the hijackers, introduced as students, to the apartment. The Saudis lived in the apartment for about a month.

Other people involved with the driver's license fraud were the legal secretary who provided the second ID and an individual named [redacted] (SA [redacted] would know more about the false license scheme involving Luis Martinez Flores and [redacted]

Alrababah was prosecuted for the driver's license fraud, and spent time in jail on a material witness warrant. He and Alfauru have been deported to Jordan. [redacted] an American citizen, was prosecuted and given probation.

Alrababah's initial story was that he ran into the hijackers at the 7-11. Later he admitted that he met them at Dar al Hijra, but that he ran into them at the 7-11. As for the trip, he described it as sightseeing. They went to Bridgeport, CT, and there were phone calls made from the hijackers' rooms to local flight schools.

Chehazeh, a Syrian, obtained asylum and lives in New Jersey.

SA Ashooh does not think that Alrababah is an extremist. Alrababah seemed to have gotten irritated by the Saudis and felt that he was being used.

WFO is still trying to determine whether the hijackers had some sort of contacts at the Skyline Grill/Skyline butcher shop, or whether they were there simply to buy food. They went there four times, and [redacted] states he dropped them off there once.

9/11 Law Enforcement Sensitive

The other agent to speak to on the Alrababah interviews is Bob Burkowski, Newark Division, Garrett Mountain, RA.

9/11 Classified Information